

Translational Research: Trends of the Future

Investigator-initiated research



Multidisciplinary Research

Multi-disciplinary Research

- Team research concept:
 - Aim at impacting the human disease
 - Group of experts that formulate objectives to the project
 - Based on common scientific goals and interests
 - Projects can not be accomplished by single investigator-based research
 - Institutions contribute by providing infrastructures and resources

Flexible Management: Role of NCI

- Pro-active role of NCI staff:
 - Pre-application consultation
 - Initial liaison/broker among scientists
 - Facilitates interactions among scientists
 - Provides administrative advise to the group (e.g. funding opportunities, program requirements)
 - Facilitator vs. regulator
 - Coordinator with other NCI programs
 - Keeps the NCI leadership informed
 - Facilitates partnerships with private/industry parties

Translational Research: Trends of the Future

- Incorporate new technologies to patient-oriented research
- Open to new and creative ways of interacting with private/industry
- Get patient advocates involved in research
- Support pre-clinical development of novel clinical interventions
- Enhance drug development through appropriate mechanisms
- Enhance career development in translational research of new and established investigators

Management Issues

- Translational research program requires flexible management:
 - Interactions with grantees (facilitate interactions/collaborations)
 - Interactions with other NCI programs (scientific coordination/integration)
 - Interactions with NIH programs (coordination)
 - Interactions with government agencies, private organizations and industry
 - Appropriate staff that serve as facilitators of research

Management Issues

- Translational research program requires high level of support:
 - Resources to respond quickly and efficiently to address gaps (e.g. Early Phase Clinical Interventions program)
 - Level of leadership to support coordination and integration within NCI, and interactions with other organizations
 - Appropriate organizational structure and staff commensurate to the size and goals of the program